GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2617
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
INDIAN EMBASSY IN BERLIN
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Embassy was shifted from Bonn to Berlin in 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Embassy building at Bonn is still a major centre of activity;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to sell this building;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether NRIs have opposed the proposed sale of this building;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the total estimated cost of the building; and

(g) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A temporary office dealing with the residual consular and administrative matters was maintained in Bonn from October 1999 till June 2002. Following the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Munich in May 2002, it was decided to wind up the Bonn Office. The former Indian Embassy building in Bonn has been lying un-utilized since then.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since it was not found possible to put the building to an efficient use in a cost effective manner, the Government of India has decided to dispose off the property in public interest. Advertisement for sale of the Bonn property was inserted in the local newspapers in April 2005 inviting bids from interested parties.

(e)&(f) The Government has received some suggestions from the Indian organizations in the German State of North Rhine Westphalia, where Bonn is located, for possible use of the building for commercial/cultural activities and for providing some consular services. However, these suggestions have not been found to be viable and cost effective. Though, the Bonn Board of Assessors has valued the property at Euro 943,000, its actual price would depend on the prevailing market situation and other factors, mainly, the age of the property and the same being a heritage building which places certain restrictions on its use.

(g) So far, a final decision in the matter has not been taken.